

CHAPTER XII: SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL CEMETERY

The San Francisco National Cemetery at the Presidio of San Francisco contains the graves of Spanish and Mexican soldiers and civilians, the American Presidio's dead, remains from other western posts and from the battlefields of the Indian wars, veterans, and the honored dead of the Armed Forces of the United States. Known and unknown from two centuries of history rest there.

The first deaths of army personnel recorded in the Presidio of San Francisco's monthly post returns occurred in 1849. That year three soldiers died, all in the 3d Artillery Regiment – two of natural causes and one an accidental death.¹

It is not known for certain where the bodies were buried. When the U.S. Army occupied the Presidio in 1847, a small Spanish-Mexican burial ground lay a short distance to the northwest of the original Presidio compound. Before long a row of laundresses' quarters stood in that same area. The cemetery then lay in the row between the two northerly sets of quarters. Whether or not American burials took place in this cemetery remains unknown. It is probable they did not.

A 1940 history of the Presidio referred to this cemetery as one for Indian, Spanish and Mexican soldiers, 1776-1846. The remains were later removed to the national cemetery, and placed in the tomb marked "The Unknown Soldier." In 1955 the quartermaster officer responsible for the national cemetery, possibly referring to an early document, wrote that 230 bodies, believed to have been Spanish and Mexican, had been removed from other burial spots on the reservation to the national cemetery.²

At any rate and at an unknown date the Army established a post cemetery to the west of the main post at a location now known as the San Francisco National Cemetery. The earliest reference to the two cemeteries yet found was written in 1866, just after the Civil War. An exasperated lieutenant wrote that no records of interments existed and only a few headboards marked the graves, "There are two cemeteries

1. PSF, Post Returns, 1847-1849. The post returns did not record deaths of women, children, or male civilians. And it should be noted that the post returns were not always accurate.

2. NPS, *Presidio of San Francisco, A Collection*, Presidio. 266; A.L. Bivens, August 30, 1955, to Sixth U.S.. Army, PSF Lands, RG 393, NA- Pacific Sierra Region.

at the post, one of which only is now used. It is in good condition. The other cemetery is situated almost between the Laundresses quarters and also is in good condition. I would deem it inadvisable to remove the bodies from it to the new Cemetery, from the amount of labor it would involve."³

A Presidio map prepared by Engineers in 1872 showed a third cemetery south of the post cemetery. There was no such cemetery at that time. A possible explanation is that at the time large portions of the reservation might be turned over to civil authority. The Army drew potential boundaries on this map so as to retain as much land as possible, including this mythical cemetery, as well as land defenses stretching from Fort Point to Presidio Hill, neither of which existed, then or later.

Until 1867 the Army throughout the country marked graves with wooden headboards. Although it authorized small headstones to replace the boards that year, not until 1873 was marble or durable stone selected. That year four burials took place in the post ceremony: two natural deaths, a death caused by a blow to the temple, and the late Lt. Arthur Cranston, a Presidio soldier killed in the Modoc War. Two burials the following year, 1874, involved a drowning and a suicide.⁴

The first listing of all interments in the post ceremony appeared in 1879. It covered the period from December 26, 1854, to May 21, 1879, and listed 141 names. Most of the burials were those of army personnel, but women, children, and civilian men were included. All ranks were listed at random, suggesting no separate plot for officers. One private appeared to be buried in two different graves. Each grave received a number such as A29 or C136. That year the post commander directed the post quartermaster to repair the fence and the gate at the cemetery, cut the grass, police the grounds, but to defer tree planting until the rainy season.⁵

An exasperated post quartermaster wrote in 1883 that confusion surrounded the numbering of graves at

3. G. Ramsay, June 16, 1866, to M. Meigs, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. By 1866 the post returns had recorded 36 soldier deaths, more than a third of them occurring in 1865 when the Presidio's strength had swollen to almost 1,700 men.

4. J. Simpson, Records of deceased, December 31, 1873, and December 31, 1874, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. The post returns for 1873 reflected the Modoc War - 3 enlisted men natural deaths, 9 enlisted men killed in action, 1 officer natural death, and 4 officers killed in action. See also Risch, *Quartermaster Support*, p. 467.

5. G.L. Anderson, July 18, 1879, to QMG, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; CO, PSF, June 23, 1879, to Post Quartermaster, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

the cemetery. In the past, graves had simply been numbered from 1 on regardless of what section they were in. Corrections would be difficult because sixty-four headstones with numbers already carved on them were en route to the Presidio. He noted too that many graves remained without any markers at all.

The War Department had directed the establishment of national cemeteries during the Civil War. About 1883 Lt. Col. George P. Andrews, commanding the Presidio, forwarded a request that the post cemetery be made a national one. Although the secretary of war disapproved that request, War Department General Orders 133 in 1884 announced that "a part of the reservation at the Presidio, including the post cemetery thereon, was announced as a national cemetery of the fourth class, to be known as the San Francisco National Cemetery, area about 9.5 acres."⁶ The post Cemetery was included in the new national cemetery but the post commander now lost control of the plot. The depot quartermaster, who had his office in San Francisco and as the representative of the Quartermaster General, took charge.

Despite the difficulties experienced with the graves' numbering system in 1883, a new numbering system and a new listing of interments took effect early in 1885, most likely because of the national cemetery designation. An example of the changes may be seen in the grave of Bandmaster F. P. Sauen, 3d Artillery. In 1879 his grave was numbered A-27; in 1885 it became A-69. The national cemetery now contained 181 interments. Although Declaration (Memorial) Day on May 30 had been observed in the nation since 1868, the first notice of it at the Presidio occurred in the 1880s. The garrison (1st Artillery and 1st Infantry) marched to the cemetery where the soldiers decorated the graves with flowers, "particular attention seemingly being paid to the resting place of Major General McDowell." Following the decorating exercises, during which a battery fired minute-guns, the troops reformed, the band played a dirge, and the garrison returned to the post.⁷

Between 1888 and 1891 the War Department allotted funds for the improvement of the cemetery – constructing walls, grading, and tree planting. While the number of deaths among the garrison remained small through the 1880s and most of the 1890s, the increasing number of burials of Civil War veterans

6. C.M. Best, March 31, 1883, Cartographic Records, OCE, Miscellaneous Fortifications File, RG 776; CO, PSF, circa 1883, Post Endorsements, PSF, RG 393, NA; U.S. Army, *Outline Descriptions*, 1904, p. 376. Colonel Andrews was buried in the national cemetery, July 3, 1887.

7. C.L. Best, March 31, 1885, to Department of California, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; *Alta California*, May 31, 1888.

led the War Department to issue General Orders 7 in 1896 that enlarged the cemetery by six acres. This "New Addition" brought the total to 15.5 acres.⁸

In 1897 Capt. Charles B. Thompson, the post quartermaster, raised the question concerning use of the cemetery for the burial of families of retired, honorably discharged regulars or volunteers of United States forces. The chief of the San Francisco Quartermaster Depot, who was responsible for the cemetery, replied that a liberal construction of army regulations permitted burial of the immediate family (wife and children) of a retired soldier. It may have been this interpretation that resulted in forty-nine burials that year whereas the post returns recorded only six deaths in the garrison.⁹

The cemetery had been enlarged just in time. The Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection resulted in a huge increase of burials in the national cemetery during the next several years: 1898, 48 interments; 1899, 161; 1900, 610; 1901, 855; and 1902, 700. At Manila the Army established the U.S. Army Morgue and Office of Identification. Remains were shipped to San Francisco, some for further transportation to home communities, others for burial in the national cemetery. The Department of California ordered the Presidio's flag to be displayed at half-mast on the days ships bearing bodies arrived in the harbor.¹⁰

The question of where to store the bodies from their arrival to burial arose in 1899. The first recommendation was to use the dining rooms of the Model Camp, the Volunteers having been demobilized. The post commander, Col. Henry B. Freeman, 24th Infantry, thought that a poor solution, especially if the press got wind of it. He suggested instead the large temporary structure near the Lombard Gate that the YMCA had erected in 1898 as a recreation center for the Volunteers. Department headquarters readily agreed. Quickly a procedure was developed for the arrival of bodies. In May 1899 the remains of twenty-eight deceased soldiers landed at the Presidio dock. Troop G, 6th Cavalry, furnished an escort of one corporal and eight privates to conduct the remains to the YMCA building. In

8. Harts, *Report*, p. 79; File, "Military Reservations, California," Master Plans, PSF.

9. Chief quartermaster, Quartermaster Depot, December 15, 1897. The correspondence consistently referred to the post cemetery and only to "soldiers."

10. Harts, *Report*, p. 79; U.S. Veterans Administration, "National Cemetery System History," typescript, p. 6; Department of California, January 26, 1900, to PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

addition, sentinels were posted around the building.

A problem arose in August when seventeen bodies were "dropped" at the wharf without notifying the Presidio. The wharfinger called post headquarters and a detail of soldiers was hurriedly assembled to handle the coffins. Col. Jacob B. Rawles scolded the depot quartermaster and asked that in the future advance notice be given so that the Presidio could have wagons at the wharf and a civilian crew to do the work. Soldiers should not be so employed.

Soldiers were involved when the remains of Brig. General. Emerson H. Liscum arrived at San Francisco's Folsom Street wharf in December 1900. General Liscum had been killed at the battle of Tientsin, during the Boxer Rebellion in China in July 1900. Two troops of the 6th Cavalry escorted the remains to the post chapel. On another occasion Colonel Rawles had to write to a private in China that his wife had died in the post hospital.¹¹

By January 1901, 500 coffins were stored at the Presidio awaiting burial. Colonel Rawles, alarmed at the demands being made on the garrison and believing that soldiers should not be involved in the gruesome task of lifting and moving the coffins about, requested that forty civilians of the Quartermaster Department be assigned to the Presidio. He said that the Presidio's band and a soldier escort would still attend the burials. Higher headquarters approved the employment of eighteen laborers and the post quartermaster suggested that funerals be restricted to two days per week. By March 1901 a morgue had been erected at the Presidio wharf. From then on soldiers escorted remains from the morgue directly to the national cemetery.¹²

In 1903-1904 the first notice was made of remains from the armed forces other than the Army arriving at the Presidio. In June 1903 the Field Artillery dispatched a four-horse caisson to the Lombard Street Gate to receive the remains of a sailor from USS *Wyoming*. In January 1904 a funeral was held for two enlisted men of the U.S. Marine Corps. The Field Artillery furnished a caisson and the Coast Artillery provided

11. H.B. Freeman, January 8, 1900, to Department of California; R.I. Eskridge, March 11, 1900, to Department of California; J.B. Rawles, August 3 to Depot Quartermaster and September 24, 1900, to F. Benedict, PSF, Letters Sent; PSF Special Orders 113, May 1, 1900, and 321, December 2, 1900, RG 393, NA.

12. Rawles, January 16, 1901, to Department of California, PSF, Letters Sent; Post Quartermaster, February 15, 1901, to CO, PSF; Depot Quartermaster, March 9, 1901, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

an escort, pallbearers, and a musician. A description of the national cemetery in 1904 stated that War Department General Orders 100, 1904, had raised the cemetery from fourth to first class. The San Francisco depot quartermaster was the supervisor, and the number of interments totaled 4,563. A rubblestone wall surrounded the cemetery on the east, south, and west sides. The north, or front, side had an iron railing along it and double, iron gates stood at the entrance. By then a section had been set aside for officers and the old post cemetery still could be identified. Buildings consisted of a brick, one and a half story "lodge" that had six rooms, outhouses, and a one-story, wood frame storehouse. The cemetery also had an iron flagstaff.¹³

After 1903 the number of interments averaged about 350 annually. During the fourth quarter of 1906, for example, the following burials took place: October 26, seven soldiers and sailors. October 30, one soldier and one civilian employed by the Quartermaster Department. November 2, five soldiers and sailors. November 9, one soldier from the General Hospital. November 23, five soldiers and one civilian. November 30, one civilian employee, Quartermaster Department. December 30, one soldier from the morgue, Presidio wharf.

On November 16 funeral services were held for the late Maj. Gen. William R. Shafter at San Francisco's Trinity Church. Eight Presidio sergeants bore the body from the church to a caisson drawn by eight horses. The general's sword and chapeau rested on the flag-draped casket. Shafter's horse, draped in a black pall and with spurred boots thrown over the saddle, followed. Three battalions of troops marched to the national cemetery. A fog and drizzle drifted over the scene. Soldiers fired three volleys, a bugler sounded taps, and a thirteen-gun salute echoed over the bay. Among the eight pallbearers walked Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, the division commander.¹⁴

When Major Harts wrote his report on the expansion of the Presidio in 1907, he discussed the national cemetery in some detail. The total interments to June 30, 1906, numbered 5,357, and the total number of graves came to only 5,281 owing to some graves containing more than one body. Only 1,522 spaces were available for future burials. Harts estimated that the cemetery would be filled in four and a half years. He

13. E. Millar, June 10, 1903, to CO, 24th Battery, Field Artillery; PSF, Special Orders 10, January 12, 1904, RG 393, NA; War Department, *Outline Description of . . . National Cemeteries, 1904*, Master Plans, PSF.

14. PSF, Special Orders, October 26-December 30, 1906; *The San Francisco Call*, November 16, 1906.

considered the location of the cemetery to be "unfortunate" and did not think it should be expanded inasmuch as the site was suited to quarters or barracks. General MacArthur, however, had given instructions to select ground for an extension. That being the case, Harts recommended fourteen acres to the southwest be added.

Harts continued to be concerned, "It is an unwelcome and depressing sight to have headstones continually in evidence." Perhaps the national cemetery could be moved to Angel Island or Benicia Barracks. A handsome crematory in the present cemetery would also solve the matter of adequate space. He listed his recommendations in order of preference:

1. Entirely remove the cemetery
2. Construct a crematory
3. Extend cemetery fourteen acres.¹⁵

Expansion came, but not immediately. In 1919 an Act of Congress on July 19, added Section A containing three and a half acres to the southwest, giving the cemetery a total of nineteen acres. The secretary of war added Section B, 2.034 acres, in 1924; and Section C, also 2.034 acres, in 1928. Finally the Army added Sections D and E, together 5.124 acres, in 1932, giving the cemetery a total of slightly more than 28 acres.¹⁶

A concrete rostrum, 155, for ceremonial purposes was constructed in 1915 and in 1921 the Quartermaster Department built a mortuary chapel, 150, at the cemetery. The Army developed a five-year plan in 1926 for improving the San Francisco National Cemetery. Construction completed in 1929 included remodeling the lodge, 151, changing its character from a brick Victorian to a stucco-covered, Mission Revival residence; a concrete garage and tool house, 154, that replaced an unsightly mule stable; and a concrete comfort station, 152, also a replacement.¹⁷

15. Harts, *Report*, pp. 79-82.

16. File, "Military Reservations, California," Master Plans, PSF. Area E had previously been a pistol range.

17. L.H. Bask, September 17, 1926, to QMG, PSF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

The cemetery experienced a public relations crisis in the 1920s. In March 1924 The Legion News reported that the Zane-Irwin Post of the American Legion had written in asking why the graves of enlisted men received less care than the graves of officers. Col. L.H. Bash, the San Francisco depot quartermaster, dashed off a letter to Washington recommending that the national commander of the American Legion be asked not to print such material until he ascertained the facts. He added that the enlisted men's graves were better maintained than the officers'.

Bash's problems continued. In 1927 the San Francisco Chronicle published an article bearing alarming headlines, "San Francisco Gold Star Mothers Ask Cemetery Aid," "Presidio Plots Unkempt and Ragged," "Congress Action Sought." The account explained that the mothers wanted an immediate grant of \$25,000 and \$50,000 later. They had presented Congresswoman Florence P. Kahn with a resolution that she would take to Washington. Bush sent the article to the quartermaster general saying he was sure the cemetery superintendent, C.C. Church, was responsible for getting the women worked up. Bush had gone to the women telling them that everything possible was already being done. He also contacted Congresswoman Kahn to explain the situation. He concluded his letter saying, "I am sorry now that I did not recommend the transfer of Mr. Church when I had a good excuse therefore. . . . He is a sort of professional patriot and a member of various veteran organizations."¹⁸

The addition of Section C in 1928 caused a realignment of the boundary walls. The quartermaster officer reported having relocated 234 feet of rubble bluestone wall eighteen inches thick, removing an iron picket fence 422 feet long and resetting the same, resetting the former iron main gates to the west entrance to the cemetery, and erecting 341 additional feet of new iron fencing. Handsome new iron gates for the main entrance, costing \$7,350 to install, arrived in 1931. Contractor T. B. Goodwin carried out the stonework, erecting gate posts and walls of Indiana limestone, and the Anchor Post Fence Company did the metal work. Ninth Corps headquarters reported that the public commented favorably about these improvements.¹⁹

18. Bash, March 26, 1924, to QMG, enclosing The Legion News, March 15, 1924; and November 18, 1927, enclosing clipping from San Francisco Chronicle, n.d., PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. By this time a concrete wall and fence had enclosed the new Section B and water supply pipes were laid.

19. C.W. Haney, October 25, 1929, completion report; unsigned completion report, May 18, 1931; J.R.R. Hannay, June 11, 1931, to AG, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

A major change in administration occurred in 1930 when responsibility for the national cemetery transferred from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Fort Mason, to the Ninth Corps area headquarters at the Presidio. By then the cemetery contained 8,937 known dead and 510 unknown of the Army and Navy. Only one Confederate grave, that of Robert Creighton, adjutant, 35th USC [?] Infantry, was to be found. Creighton most recently had been employed in the Quartermaster Department.²⁰

Ninth Corps headquarters employed a pathologist to examine the cemetery's vegetation in 1931. He reported that most of the trees were Monterey cypresses and were in good condition. Also thriving were shrubs and young trees planted in the front section in 1929. Not doing well were twelve deciduous oaks planted near the superintendent's residence. Also in poor shape were viburnums planted along the south side of the memorial court. He thought that neither was suited to the climate. He found the graves to be in poor condition - dead grass, weeds, and insufficient water. In addition to the six unskilled laborers already employed, he recommended hiring two men for lawn duty only or installing a stationary sprinkler system. Also a gardener should be added to the staff.

Headquarters also had asphaltic concrete replace the macadam roads in 1931 and had additional work done on curbs, walls, and gates in 1933, this latter work costing \$5,875. In November 1935 a wind storm blew over eighteen Monterey cypress trees along Lincoln Boulevard opposite the national cemetery. The trees broke the iron fence and damaged the roofs of the cemetery buildings.²¹

The American War Mothers of San Francisco received permission to erect a marker at the cemetery in 1934. That same year the quartermaster general permitted the removal of the Lincoln Memorial Tablet from the side of the lodge to a panel in front of the rostrum at the memorial court. One of the more unusual events at the national cemetery occurred in 1936 when seven remains, all U.S. Navy, arrived from China. These men had died there between 1872 and 1895. The Navy requested they be buried with as little publicity as possible and without the press's knowledge. Because of the long time since the deaths the Navy did not attempt to communicate with next of kin. An inspection in March 1941 disclosed that

20. C.R. Bennett, May 5, 1930, to CO, Fort Mason; C.C. Church, November 26, 1928, to Quartermaster, Fort Mason, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

21. W.W. Wagener, September 18, 1931, report on vegetation; completion report, September 24, 1931; Construction contract, December 21, 1933; and F.E. Davis, November 12, 1935, to QMG, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

only eighty burial spaces remained in the enlisted men's section and it would be filled before the end of the month. The Presidio post section still had 238 available grave sites, enough for six more years. The officers' section had 237 available grave sites. The inspecting officer commented that headstones were poorly aligned.²²

World War II had but slight impact on the San Francisco National Cemetery. In 1942 orders came down to turn in all war relics for turning into scrap metal. The two-wheel field piece at the south end of the officers' section, two trench mortars at the north end of officers' section, two other trench mortars located in front of the rostrum, and two 7-inch field pieces on four wheels and also near the rostrum, and the iron railing around the 7-inch guns, a total of 30,445 pounds, were turned in. One other wartime event was the employment of the Italian Service Unit personnel in maintenance work. Due to a lack of supervision, maintenance remained inadequate.²³

In 1947 the San Francisco National Cemetery announced that it was closing for future burials, all available space having been taken. The Army opened the Golden Gate National Cemetery at San Bruno south of San Francisco. The cemetery at the Presidio that had begun as a small post burial ground now contained more than 22,200 graves – soldiers, sailors, marines, their wives and children, and some civilians. The future brought maintenance issues, improvements, and some new construction. In 1948 an inspecting officer noted that the cemetery chapel was rarely used as such whereas the superintendent had to maintain a tiny office in his residence. At the same time a large army chapel, 130, stood nearby. Before long the remodeled chapel became a satisfactory office.²⁴

In 1937 land-starved San Francisco closed all its cemeteries and removed all remains to new burying grounds at Colma south of the city. In the 1950s the idea arose that the Army should move the San Francisco National Cemetery also. The Army was adamant in its opposition saying that national

22. J.H. Laubach, January 10, 1934, to American Monumental Company; QMG, April 17, 1934, to Ninth Corps Area; P.S. Rossiter, February 20, 1936, to CO, Twelfth Naval District; E.A. Anderson, March 3, 1941, inspection report, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

23. C. Kearney, October 13, 1942, to Ninth Service Command; R.F. Bartz, June 9, 1945, to CG, Army Service Forces, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

24. F.A. Kirk, September 22, 1948, to Chief, Memorial Service, PSF, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; A.L. Bivens, August 30, 1955, to Ninth Corps Area, PSF Lands, RG 338, NA. A new count in 1962 reached a total of 25,363 burials.

cemeteries were permanent installations and removal was not contemplated. Shortly thereafter another 26.84 acres of Presidio land was transferred to the Quartermaster Corps as an addition to the national cemetery. When the Army proceeded to remove eucalyptus trees the City and County of San Francisco protested strongly that the clearing would destroy the historic skyline. The issue was finally put to rest in 1962 when the commanding general, Sixth U.S. Army, received back the acreage as part of the Presidio.²⁵

On June 18, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon signed the National Cemeteries Act that transferred eighty-two of the U.S. Army's eighty-four national cemeteries from the Secretary of the Army to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. San Francisco National Cemetery was among the eighty-two. (The two remaining under army jurisdiction were both in the Washington, D.C. area – Arlington National Cemetery and the Soldiers Home.)

The cemetery has four special monuments: The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial commemorating the Civil War; Pacific Garrison Memorial honoring the dead of the Regular Army and Navy; American War Mothers Monument; and the Unknown Soldier, "the remains of some 517 unknown regrouped from locations throughout the cemetery," reinterred in this location in 1934.

Eleven Medal of Honor recipients repose there, four of whom brought honor to themselves in the Indian wars:

Sgt. John Mitchell, Infantry (Texas 1874)
Lt. (Maj.) William R. Parnell, Cavalry (Nez Perce War 1877)
Sgt. William Foster, Cavalry (Texas 1872)
Sgt. William Wilson, Cavalry (Texas 1872)

The remaining seven served the nation in other wars:

Lt. (Maj. Gen.) William R. Shafter, Infantry (Civil War)
Sgt. James Madison, Cavalry (Civil War)
Sgt. William H. Tompkins, Cavalry (Spanish-American War)
Col. Frederick Funston, Infantry (Philippine Insurrection)
Cpl. Reuben J. Phillips, U.S. Marine Corps (Boxer Rebellion)

25. A.L. Bivins, August 30, 1955, to Sixth U.S. Army, PSF Lands, RG 393, NA-Pacific Sierra Region; Binder, "Prior Expansion Summary San Francisco N.C.," Master Plans, PSF; *San Francisco Examiner*, May 16, 1961; *The Denver Post*, November 21, 1993.

Sgt. Lloyd M. Seibert, Infantry (World War I)
Capt. Reginald B. Desiderio, Infantry (Korea) (awarded posthumously)

One other recipient of the medal, Lt. Abraham DeSomer (Mexico 1914), buried elsewhere, is memorialized at the national cemetery. Each of these grave markers, except General Shafter's, bears the Medal of Honor in gold leaf.

These soldiers share the hallowed ground with thousands of others: unidentified victims of the 1906 earthquake; Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, whose small standard-issue headstone marks Grave 1, Plot 1, Officers' Section; Lt. Gen. Hunter Liggett; Adm. Oscar W. Farenholt; Union spy Pauline Cushman Fryer; Col. Edward Dickinson Baker; Two Bit; Lt. Col. Barton Stone Alexander; Maj. Dana Crissy; and U.S. Congressman Philip Burton.

Bodies were brought to this national cemetery from a navy cemetery on Yerba Buena Island at the time of construction of the Bay Bridge and from Camp Reynolds on Angel Island when that post closed following World War II. British, French, and Canadian military personnel who died on duty in the United States during World War I were buried here.²⁶

San Francisco National Cemetery, the first national cemetery on the West Coast, reposes in peace and dignity, the final resting place of national heroes. A significant part of the nation's history, it contains the graves of the unknowns and those whom history remembers.

26. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, San Francisco National Cemetery, San Francisco California (n.p., n.p.); "San Francisco National Cemetery," Master Plans, PSFS; A.L. Bivens, August 30, 1955, PSF Lands, RG 393, NA-Pacific Sierra Region.